

Dallas, T E X A S
November 15, 1975

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

It was good of you to write me on October 29. I am sorry that you have been under the weather. In 1971 I was in the hospital with a corset deal around my middle and a 15 pound weight suspended from it. I couldn't walk good and was in intense pain in the groin area when I did. They gave me diathermy but never could find out what was wrong. After about 10 days I got up and came home and layed around with legs elevated for about 10 more days and gradually recovered. My opinion is that it was a pinched nerve. Hope you are fine now.

I was pretty well tied in on the Kennedy-Ruby deal. At the time I was Operations Manager for the Western Union. I have delayed writing you, looking for the Thermofax copy of a money order filed by Ruby to Candy Bar less than 5 minutes before he shot Oswald - wanted to send it to you. Can't find it; if I do later will send to you. Believe it or not, he included a Mother's Day greeting with the money order.

It was rather crisp and windy on 11/22. Our temporary telegraph office was set up on the mezzanine floor of the Trade Mart overlooking the dining hall and directly opposite and above the small platform from which the President was to make his address. I recall the small red rug on the two or three steps and the large bouquet of yellow roses. There was an unusual delay in the arrival of the President and diners were being served at the tables. The Trade Mart is located on the freeway which goes on to and by Parkland Hospital. Suddenly we heard cars going by at terrific speed and a siren or two, not many. We thought nothing of it. About this time the White House press men poured in, milled around for about 2 minutes and rushed out. I saw our man (Lincons) who traveled with the White House press, standing behind an operator on the New York printer. The operator in New York told us about the shooting. We got the word from New York, not Dallas.

I got some operators together and got plans underway for some printers to be installed at Parkland Hospital. In meantime word of the shooting had reached the diners on the main floor and there was almost dead silence. After about 10 or 15 minutes a priest arose, said a prayer and the people began to leave the hall.

I took off for Parkland Hospital with 4 or 5 operators and you now have the information about what the physicians said when they came out to meet the press. YES what the physicians said WAS recorded. He was a stocky young man with dark hair and he held the recorder close as each doctor spoke. I do not know his name or if he was even a member of the White House press, he may have been with a Dallas paper.

After the physicians were interviewed by the White House press the reporters went their various ways. Most were going back to Washington that afternoon or evening but I heard one or two say they were staying over.

I left from inside the hospital and walked around back alone. I was standing on the south side against the building in the sun to be out of the chilly wind. I saw an ambulance slowly leaving the back entrance of the hospital. It was driven by Vernon O'Neal (who I went to first year high school with in San Antonio) as the ambulance passed me (close) I noticed that although the curtains were drawn, the ones on my side were slightly open and I saw Mrs. Kennedy sitting in there facing in my direction.

I will tell you this just as a matter of gossip --- an ambulance driver in Dallas told me that Vernon placed the President in his finest casket (which, of course, was proper) but he wanted so much money for it that officials in Washington made their own arrangements and shipped it back to him. Ho, hum.

I took my operators back to the Trade Mart. I wanted to telephone my wife who worked on West Jefferson. I picked up a telephone (I was sobbing) and the White House switchboard operator answered! I said: "Excuse me but I am in Dallas and was trying to call my wife". "She replied: "Honey, give me the number and I will get her". My wife answered almost immediately - it seemed.

To my surprise my wife was all excited and said police were everywhere around where she worked. It turned out that they captured Oswald in a theatre just a few doors from her and had chased him from where he killed Tippett which was also in the vicinity of where she worked.

Now we will come to the Ruby-Oswald case: Oswald was first taken to the City jail which is just two or three doors from the Western Union. He was scheduled to be taken to the County jail the day before he was killed. On the day before he was killed I walked down the ramp to the basement entrance and stood around waiting from them to bring Oswald out. Finally a policeman brought me a folding chair and said you may get tired, wont you sit down. He said: "They should bring him out in a short time now". No one knew me or questioned my being there. Later on they told me that Oswald would not be moved that day. The next day when Oswald was shot by Ruby my boss was in Kansas City and I was in complete charge of the Dallas Western Union office. You can imagine the time that I had with reporters since Ruby had just left the Western Union before he did the shooting.

Now here comes the Roby trial in January -- Judge Joe B. Brown moved out of his chambers and let us have his entire space for our office and telephones. Judge Brown was a friend of ours. He is now deceased. His son, a Justice of the Peace here is my lawyer. I became acquainted with various national reporters, particularly Bob Consendine.

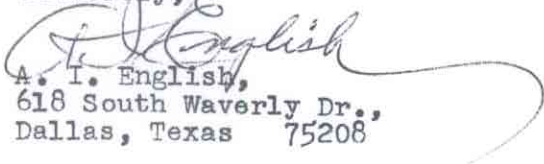
I was at the office and at the trial every day but did not learn any more than what was in the papers.

I know that I have not given you anything here you can sink your teeth into EXCEPT that the doctor's press interview WAS recorded. Otherwise, I have just given you a story to show you how both incidents touched this family's life to such an extent.

I heard you mentioned on TV today - about the Warren commission following some prearranged format in setting down their conclusions.

I firmly believe that the Warren Commission's report is faulty and that your research will be instrumental in bringing out the true facts. I wish you the best of luck and am sorry that my notes taken at the time had^{not} been more complete.

Sincerely,


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